



City of Auburn

AUBURN

Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2009

NEWS FROM AUBURN CITY HALL

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From the Mayor

Thank you Auburn for voting me in as your new Mayor. I am humbled and honored.

We must acknowledge that Mr. McNally's service to our community was greatly appreciated. He and the commission did many good things over the past years.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself for those of you who do not know much about me. My wife and I moved to Auburn in 1993. Our son Jacob is a senior while our daughter Danielle is in 7th grade at Western.

I have been on the Auburn Williams Fire Department since moving here and spent some time serving on the Zoning and Planning commission. My wife and I own Empire Sign located downtown and have been in business since 1997.

Over the next few months I will be looking over the numbers, reviewing contracts, and getting a good feel of what our city needs to run smoothly. Some decisions will have to be made in the near future that will effect all of us. I will be upfront, open, and honest with all of you. I will make mistakes, there is not one person who does not make mistakes. However, I will own up to them and find ways to correct them. Being honest no matter what the situation is always the best way.

Some of you will not agree with my thoughts, however, I will not dismiss your point of view. Our Founding Fathers disagreed on many levels but had the common sense to understand that not everyone has the same opinions. By listening to the other points of view and coming to a common ground we can make Auburn an example of how its citizens and its government can work together.

I will be available for your questions and concerns in several ways. First of all I will be at the City Hall from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm the last Friday of every month. Please feel free to visit with me and express your thoughts or just stop in to say hi. You will also be able to contact me via email at, mayor@auburnmi.org any time. Eventually I will be sending out emails updating on subjects or events that may be of interest. You can also leave a phone message at City Hall during regular business hours.

NOTES FROM CITY HALL

Did You Know?

Chemical bank located at 232 W. Midland Road accepts payment current for City water/sewer bills. If you receive a red notice or a shut-off billing on your water/sewer account, payment must be made at City Hall to avoid service disconnection. City Hall has a drop box located next to the entrance for after hours use.

Notary Services

Notary services are available during regular business hours at City Hall.



Dog and Cat Licenses

Dog and cat licenses are now sold year round at City Hall. Proof of rabies vaccination is required as is proof of neutering and the Bay County renewal form.



City Park Building

The park building is now available for rent all year long. It is a great place to have the family Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas party. Please call City Hall with any questions you may have. There are several dates available in the fall and winter months.

Animals at the Park

Citizens have complained about animal owners bringing their animals to the park and not cleaning up after them. Animals are welcome at the park; but they have to be on a leash and the custodian is responsible to clean up any solid waste from the animals.

Board and Commission Applications Needed to Fill Vacancies

Applications are accepted for all City Boards and Commissions at all times and will be kept on file for future vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on various boards and commissions please call City Hall and apply for any vacancies that match your interests and expertise.

Holiday Schedule

City Administrative Offices (City Hall) and the Department of Public (DPW) will be closed for the observance of the following holidays:



Thanksgiving Holiday
Christmas Holiday
New Years

November 26-November 27
December 24-December 25
December 31-January 1



Works

Residents who need assistance with a Public Works emergency on these days should call 911 who

Advertising Opportunity

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, which reaches over 1,000 City of Auburn residents, please e-mail kbellor@auburnmi.org for more information.

Notes from Chief Mike Snyder – Auburn-Williams Fire Department Take the Time to Ensure Your Family’s Safety with Using Alternative Home Heating Equipment

As heating oil and natural gas costs continue to rise, many families are looking for alternative solutions to heat their homes for the upcoming winter season. The Auburn-Williams Fire Department is urging all families to take critical home heating safety precautions, before winter begins, to protect against home fires and carbon monoxide dangers.

In 2007, there were 404 heating-related fires reported in the state of Michigan. Most of the fires related to supplemental heating appliances were caused by improper installation, maintenance, or use of the appliances. Every appliance should have a complete set of installation instructions and should be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Fire Precautions: Wood Stove Safety

Wood stoves require careful use and proper maintenance. The following tips are offered to help families prevent fire- and burn-related injuries this winter.

- ◆ Burn only seasoned hardwood - not trash, cardboard boxes, or Christmas trees because these items burn unevenly, may contain toxins, and increase the risk of uncontrolled fires.
- Have a professional chimney sweep inspect chimneys annually for cracks, blockages and leaks and have them cleaned and repaired as needed. Creosote is an unavoidable product of wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Creosote builds up in connectors and chimney flues and can cause a chimney fire.
- Keep all persons, pets and flammable objects, including kindling, bedding, clothing, at least three feet away from fireplaces and wood stoves. If you have young children, consider using a hearth baby gate to keep children safe.
- Use sturdy screens or doors to keep embers inside fireplaces.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside or near sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once per year.
- Immediately call 911 for fire department response at the first signs of a chimney fire. Extensive damage and injury from uncontrolled fires may occur if delays occur in properly extinguishing a chimney fire.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Precautions

Carbon monoxide is commonly known as “the silent killer.” Because it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, none of your senses can detect it. CO claims the lives of nearly 300 people in their homes each year according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). CO is a potentially deadly gas that is produced by fuel-burning heating equipment, such as furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, and kerosene heaters.

Follow these guidelines to help keep your family safer.

- ◆ Install at least one CO alarm near sleeping areas. Test CO alarms monthly.
- Have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune-up your home’s central heating system and repair leaks or other problems; fireplaces and woodstoves should also be inspected each year and cleaned or repaired as needed.
- ◆ Keep gas appliances properly adjusted and serviced.
 - ◆ Never use an oven or range to heat your home.
 - ◆ Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or in a closed garage.

More information on home heating safety (and many other home safety guides) may be found at http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/safetyguide.aspx .



Snowplowing

The City of Auburn Department of Public Works is dedicated to keeping your streets well maintained. Remember not to shovel or blow snow into the street or sidewalk. Please keep hydrants clear of snow. The Public Works Department does not clear driveways and cannot avoid throwing snow back into your driveway when they are clearing streets. Thank you for your patience during our long hard winters.

Parking Reminders

Parking on City of Auburn streets is prohibited between the hours 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during snow removal season. This gives DPW workers adequate time to clear the streets for morning traffic after a night of snowfall. If your vehicle is left on a City street during the times above it may be ticketed and towed. Any questions can be directed to the Officer Poltorak at 662-6768.

Mailboxes

Please check your mailbox posts to insure that they are solid and sturdy in the ground. Once winter is upon us and the ground is frozen, it is almost impossible to make the needed repairs to sturdy your mailbox. This will ensure when heavy snow is plowed off the road, your mailbox will not be pushed over.



Water Service Breaks

The water service line carries water from the water main located in the right-of-way to the inside of your home. Plastic water services frequently break in the cold weather. It is usually located in the front yard and should be about 6 feet underground. Water line leaks are not always evident. Some signs that a leak may exist include the presence of water in the yard or very low pressure. If you think you have a water service leak call the DPW. They will check your water service line.

Fall Leaf Collection & Brush Pickup

The City of Auburn's Fall Leaf Collection Program has begun and will end on November 30th; Crews will complete a city-wide collection before starting another round. Please be attentive to the following:

- ◆ Leaves should be raked into the "outlawn" area (between sidewalk and curb) for pickup.
- ◆ Do not block sidewalk with leaves or branches.
- ◆ Do not rake leaves into the street.
- ◆ Please do not put any sticks or branches in with the leaves.
- ◆ Please do not park in the street when leaf collection is in your area.



Your cooperation will insure a clean and efficient finale to our fall clean-up program.

Waste Management To Suspend Yard Waste Collection Program

Auburn's contracted waste hauler, Waste Management Services, will suspend its yard waste collection program on Wednesday, November 25, 2009. As always, until that time, yard waste will be picked up if it is placed in either recyclable paper bags or in containers clearly marked "Yard Waste". If you have any questions regarding the yard waste program, or any services offered by Waste Management, you can contact them by calling 800-796-9696.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas Trees are collected and recycled the first two weeks of the year. Place your tree out for collection on refuse day. Be sure to remove any bags, decorations and the tree stand.



Coming soon to the website: Auburn Community Photo Album

We take a lot of pride in being members of a great community. We would like to show the world what a great place we call home. The best way to do this is to post pictures of the people and events that make this community special to us. We are hoping that you will contribute to this effort by emailing pictures to us that we can post them on the website.

Email—ljohnson@auburnmi.org



19th Annual Christmas Decorating Contest December 1, 2009



Again this year, the City will be sponsoring a citywide decorating contest during the Christmas season. Judging will take place between 7pm and 9pm on December 1st, which is the same night that Santa arrives in town. Prizes will be given out in both residential and commercial categories based on creativity and overall appearance. Prizes for the contest will be:

Commercial -	1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50)
Residential -	1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50)
	3rd—10th (\$25)

Last year's winners were:

Commercial 1st place—Flower's From the Heart and 2nd place—Homestead Center.

Residential 1st place—Truly Dominowski

Residential 2nd—10th places—Bruce Lance, Rev. David Reed, James Emerson, Peter Fredrich, Kevin Przyblski, James Thomkinson, Sandra Ellery, Jeffrey Passage, Edwin Kulka

Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be at the Williams Township hall. They will be arriving at 6:00 pm to visit all the good boys and girls! There will be games to play, crafts to make and goodies to eat. Any good boy or girl who brings in a can or two of food, will receive an extra ticket to play a game. The food will help fill the Auburn Food Pantry.

The staff and elected officials of the City of Auburn would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season, and a very prosperous New Year.

For Most, Taxable Value For 2010 to Stay the Same

As of this writing, a decreased demand in the economy has contributed to an expected 0% CPI (Consumer Price Index). What this means is that the Taxable Value for 2010 will not increase due to inflation and therefore, taxable value will only increase because of new construction or items discovered on field studies that have not been previously assessed.

There has been a significant decline in housing sales and homes are selling for less than a year ago. For the 2010 assessment year, we will be comparing sales to assessments from October 1, 2008, through

September 30, 2009, as mandated again this year by the State Tax Commission.

These are challenging times for all of us and we intend to do our best to be fair and equitable when administering the property tax. Foreclosure-related sales need to meet the market value test. Every foreclosure-related sale has to be verified to be determined if it is actually arm's length. An affidavit needs to be completed by either the buyer or lender in order to be considered for inclusion in our sales study.

Patricia Peltier, Assessor

**HELP PREVENT THEFT
FROM VEHICLES**

1. Lock your vehicles and put valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk or bring them into the house at night. Thieves will break into any vehicle if they think there is something of value to be stolen. Thieves know that briefcases may contain checkbooks, wallets, watches, calculators, and other small electronics. Similarly, they are aware that many gym bags contain jewelry, keys, cash, and personal stereos, etc.
2. After removing valuables from view, lock your car doors. This will discourage some of the more casual thieves. It will deter those who would go into an unlocked car to look for a trunk or hood release button in order to steal auto parts or the contents of the trunk.
3. Report suspicious activity while it's happening. This could save you or your neighbor from victimized. Call 911 and stay on the line if you see or hear something that seems unusual or suspicious. Try to get a description of the suspects and their vehicle but don't confront suspects. Don't think you are bothering the police by calling them to report suspicious activity. It's their job to detect and apprehend criminals and they need your help because they can't be in everyone's neighborhood 24 hours a day.



Public Meetings

City Commission (7:00 pm)
1st and 3rd Monday.

Planning Commission (7:00 pm)
3rd Tuesday of the months -
January, March, May, July, Sep-
tember and November

Downtown Development Authority
(11:00 am) 4th Tuesday

The City of Auburn's legal paper
is the Bay City Democrat. We re-
mind you to regularly check the
legal's for notices regarding new
and revised ordinances, hearing
and meeting day changes.



City of Auburn Downtown Development Authority

You will soon notice a new "Welcome to Auburn" sign installed on the corner of Garfield and Midland.

The Auburn Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has financed the construction of the welcome sign, streetlights and landscaping for a more modern urban "downtown" design.

The work will be completed concurrently with the redevelopment of the vacant gas station into a new gas station/convenience/take-out restaurant facility.

The following is planned: The planting of 23 trees and over 70 bushes along with various perennial flowers and ground cover. Installation of metal fencing and decorative piers. Installing 10 new streetlights and removing the old lights. New planting beds around the sign and refurbishing the old Auburn Plaza sign.

AUBURN NEWS

News From Auburn City Hall
113 E. Elm Street * Auburn, MI 48611

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AUBURN PARK RENTAL RULES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

(NO EXCEPTIONS)

NO PERSON OR ORGANIZATION SHALL BE ALLOWED USE OF THE AUBURN CITY PARK BUILDING WITHOUT FIRST ENTERING INTO A RENTAL AGREEMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY OF AUBURN (SUBJECT TO RENTAL FEES AND DEPOSITS) UNDER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

JANUARY 1ST THROUGH JANUARY 31ST - AUBURN/WILLIAMS NONPROFIT GROUPS EXCLUSIVELY HAVE FIRST RIGHTS TO THE CITY PARK. NO ONE ELSE WILL BE PERMITTED TO SCHEDULE A RESERVATION DURING THIS PERIOD.

FEBRUARY 1ST THROUGH MARCH 31ST – THIS PERIOD IS OPEN TO AUBURN/WILLIAMS RESIDENTS ONLY ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS.

BEGINNING APRIL 1ST – ANY RESIDENT FROM OUTSIDE OF AUBURN/WILLIAMS IS ALLOWED TO RESERVE THE AUBURN CITY PARK FOR ANY DATES THAT ARE STILL AVAILABLE.